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Punam cultivation in Malabar.

* 1465 *Q.*—SRI C. H. KANARAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Malabar Special Police is posted to prevent punam cultivation in Kottayam taluk, Malabar; and

(*b*) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) No, Sir.

" (*b*) Does not arise."

SRI C. H. KANARAN :—" It is a fact that the Malabar Special Police has been posted there to prevent punam cultivation this year. Will the Government at least enquire into the matter and see whether it is so or not? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I think the hon. Member refers to the posting of Armed Reserves with effect from the 20th November 1954 to patrol the Gudur area to prevent unauthorized felling of trees in Gudam forest area. They have not been posted there for the purpose of preventing punam cultivation."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" The ryots who were habitually carrying on punam cultivation in recognized areas are being prevented from continuing their usual cultivation by the Malabar Special Police or the Armed Reserve. They are not exactly formally preventing them but as soon as cultivators are found cultivating punam lands they are arrested and taken away thereby effectively and actually preventing those ryots from carrying on their usual cultivation. Would Government stop this practice which may be condemned as vicious? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, as a matter of fact it is found that immigrants from Travancore trespass into these areas and are attempting to cultivate lands. Certainly that has to be prevented and therefore Government are taking action."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Are the Government aware of the fact that the so-called immigrants from Travancore are the permanent settlers in these areas and they are living there for a long time and carrying on this cultivation and that the police are preventing them from doing this though they are authorized to carrying on this cultivation under section 3 of the Preservation of Private Forests Act? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I am sorry the entire facts are being distorted. As a matter of fact it is the Communist party which is organizing this illegal felling of trees and trespass into the forest area. It will have to be prevented at any cost."

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SRI K. MADHAVAN NAMBIAR :—" കഴിഞ്ഞ മൂന്നു കൊല്ലമായിട്ട് പുനംകൃഷിക്കാരുടെ പേരിൽ കേസുകൾ നിലവിലുണ്ട്. കൊല്ലംതോറും കൃഷിക്കാർ പുനം കത്തും, ഗവമ്മേണ്ട കേസ്സെടുക്കും, അതാണ് നടന്നുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നത്. ഗവമ്മേണ്ട് ഇനിയെങ്കിലും ഈ കേസുകൾ അവസാനിപ്പിക്കാൻ മുതിരുമോ ? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" In the course of the last two years there have been 20 cases of illegal felling of trees and trespass into the forest area. I do not think Government can tolerate this sort of action being committed whoever may be the party concerned."

8-40 a.m. SRI C. H. KANARAN :—" സ്വകാര്യവന സംരക്ഷണനിയമത്തിലെ ചില വകുപ്പുകൾ ഭേദഗതിചെയ്ത് വളരെക്കാലമായി പുനം കൃഷി ചെയ്തുവന്നിരുന്ന കൃഷിക്കാരെ പുനംകത്താൻ അനുവദിക്കുന്നതാണെന്ന് വ്യവസ്ഥചെയ്തിട്ടും പുനംകൃഷിക്കാരെ തടസ്സം ചെയ്തുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ഏർപ്പാട് ഇനിയെങ്കിലും അവസാനിപ്പിക്കുമോ ? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, unless lawful grants are made, nobody should enter the land and if anybody does so, it will be trespass. People cannot be allowed to take the law into their own hands."

Second Language Test for officers of Commercial Tax Department.

* 1466 Q.—SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) with reference to clause (e) of the answer to Question No. 150, given on 15th March 1954, whether the necessary amendments to the Service Rules regarding second language test have been issued in respect of the Madras Commercial Taxes Service and the Madras Commercial Tax Subordinate Service; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" (a) & (b) The Special Rules for the Madras Commercial Taxes Subordinate Service have been suitably amended by prescribing Tamil only for the second language test and deleting Telugu. As regards the Special Rules for the Madras Commercial Taxes Service the amendments are still under examination."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Sir, is it an obligation upon all Malayalees to pass the Tamil Test and is it that the *vice versa* does not hold good? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" Sir, Tamil is now the principal language of the State. Formerly, both Tamil and Telugu were prescribed. Now, an officer is expected to know two languages; but if one language is his mother tongue he need not pass a test in that language, for it is enough if he has ordinary proficiency in that language."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Sir, are Government aware that there are hundreds of Malayalee merchants who can and are maintaining their accounts in Malayalam also in the City